Demographic Spotlight

Interprovincial Employees in Alberta: Industrial Profile by Major Region of Origin

Interprovincial employees (IPEs) in Alberta are individuals who found employment in Alberta but maintained their primary residence in another part of the country. IPEs who worked in Alberta surged from 66,000 in 2002 to about 130,000 in 2012 (the latest year available; the time lag is due to multiple years of historical taxfiler data required to accurately identify IPEs). Data recently acquired from Statistics Canada allow for a deeper understanding of these IPEs, of whom almost half (44%) worked in Alberta's construction and energy sectors by 2012. Much of the construction activity itself was energy-related. Building on the 2016 publication on IPEs, this Spotlight shows a more detailed breakdown of IPEs working in Alberta by industry and by region.

Atlantic Canada

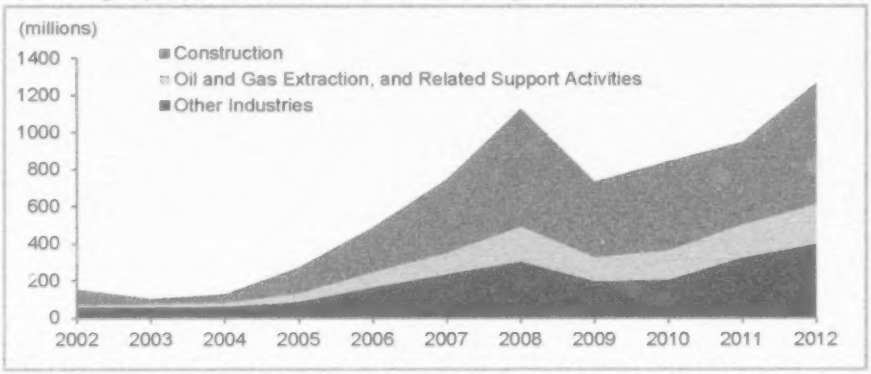
From 2002 to 2012, the number of IPEs coming to Alberta from Atlantic Canada increased significantly across industries, but most notably in the construction and energy sectors. IPEs working in the construction industry increased by 277%, or about 10,000. By 2012, over 40% of all IPEs from Atlantic Canada worked in the construction industry. Similarly, Alberta's oil and gas extraction and related support services industry received close to 5,000 IPEs from Atlantic Canada in 2012, more than a six-fold increase from 2002.

Reflecting in part the typically high wages offered in these two sectors, the labour income earned by IPEs from Atlantic Canada substantially increased from 2002 to 2012 (Chart 1). In 2012, just over $650 million (in 2002 constant dollars) in T4 earnings came from construction (52% of total earned), while the oil and gas extraction and support services represented 17% ($216 million) of the total. Notable growth in T4 earnings was also posted for several other industries, such as professional, scientific and technical services ($67 million in 2012, or 5% of total), and transportation and warehousing ($54 million, or 4% of total).

British Columbia

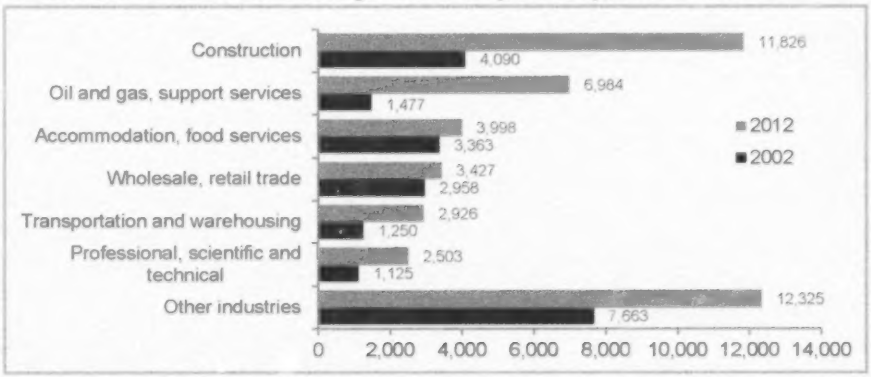
The industries chosen by IPEs coming to Alberta from BC were more varied compared with those from Atlantic Canada (Chart 2); nevertheless, the number of IPEs from BC working in Alberta's construction and oil and gas extraction and support sectors substantially increased. Alberta's construction industry received

Chart 1: Construction, energy lifted earnings for IPEs from Atlantic Canada
T4 earnings by IPEs from Atlantic Canada working in Alberta (2002 constant dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017, Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database

Chart 2: IPEs from BC working in construction, energy sector surged
Number of IPEs from BC working in Alberta by industry, 2002 and 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017, Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database

Alberta Government

March 28, 2017
Treasury Board and Finance
Office of Statistics and Information

close to 12,000 IPEs from BC in 2012, an increase of 189% (or about 8,000) from 2002. Likewise, the number of IPEs from BC working in Alberta's oil and gas extraction and support services industry grew substantially: from fewer than 1,500 in 2002 to close to 7,000 in 2012.

Correspondingly, T4 earnings among construction IPEs from BC rose from less than $100 million in 2002 to $475 million in 2012, constituting 30% of total earnings by IPEs from BC (Chart 3). Meanwhile, T4 earnings among energy sector IPEs rose from about $40 million to just over $360 million (23% of the total in 2012).

Ontario

In 2002, the accommodation and food services industry employed the highest number of IPEs from Ontario among the major industries; however, employment in Alberta's construction industry escalated among IPEs from Ontario, rising from fewer than 1,300 in 2002 to over 5,000 by 2012 (Chart 4). T4 earnings among construction IPEs from Ontario correspondingly rose from about $32 million to over $215 million.

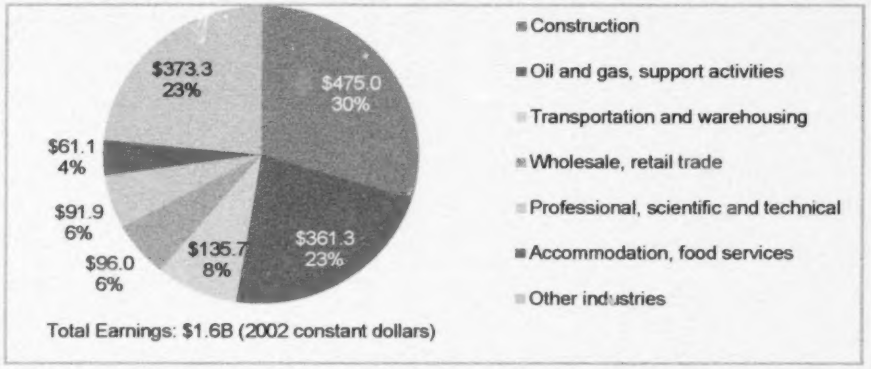
Quebec

The industrial profile of IPEs coming to Alberta from Quebec also changed significantly from 2002 to 2012. By 2012, there were about 1,300 IPEs from Quebec working in Alberta's construction industry, more than a three-fold increase from 2002 (Chart 5). Several other industries, such as transportation and warehousing, also saw appreciable rises in the number of workers coming from Quebec. On the other hand, the number of IPEs from Quebec working in Alberta's accommodation and food services industry dropped by more than half, from almost 2,000 IPEs in 2002 to fewer than 900 by 2012.

Contact

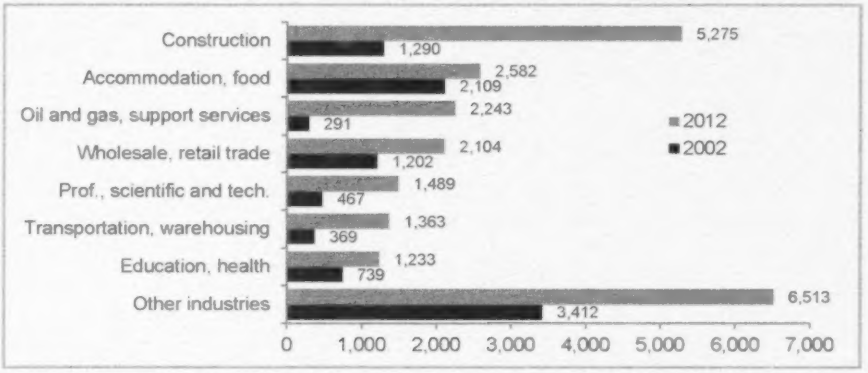
Owen Jung	780.427.8840
Jacques Lord	780.415.0567

Chart 3: Over half of earnings among IPEs from BC in construction, energy
T4 earnings by IPEs from BC working in AB, 2012 (millions of 2002 constant dollars)



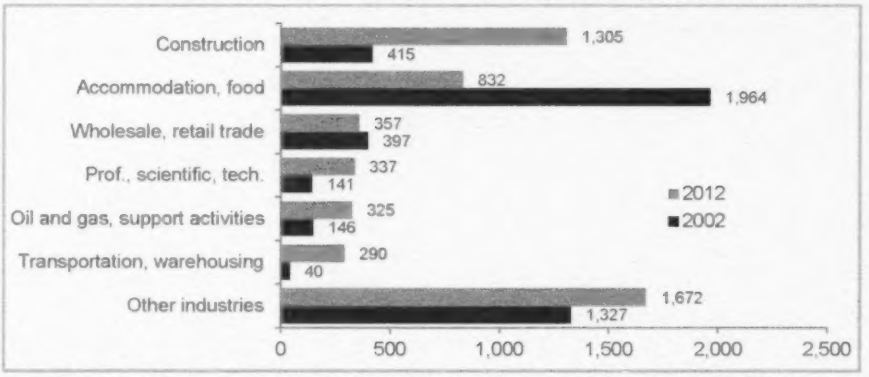
Source: Statistics Canada, 2017, Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database

Chart 4: Broad-based growth in IPEs from Ontario, especially construction
Number of IPEs from Ontario working in Alberta by industry, 2002 and 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017, Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database

Chart 5: IPEs from Quebec shifted toward construction industry
Number of IPEs from Quebec working in Alberta by industry, 2002 and 2012



Source: Statistics Canada, 2017, Special tabulation - Interprovincial Workforce Database